



# NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States

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## Leg. Affairs Weekly Round-Up – October 26

### Trident Juncture 18

Drills started Thursday for one of the largest NATO exercises since the end of the cold war. Taking place in Norway and off its coast in the Baltic Sea, the maneuvers simulate the invasion of a NATO country and trigger of the Article 5 mutual defense clause. It will involve 14,000 American and 36,000 allied troops, 50 aircraft, 65 ships and 10,000 vehicles. This figure includes the 24<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit with USS Iwo Jima, M1A1 Abrams tanks prepositioned in Norway, and [recently modernized anti-tank Light Armored Vehicle \(LAV-AT\)](#).. It is the first time a U.S. aircraft carrier has operated in the Arctic circle for 30 years, [reports Navy Times](#). The [West must reverse its general ignorance of maritime and naval affairs](#) says an analyst with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the world's oldest independent think tank on international defense and security. Meanwhile the Wall Street Journal reports [the sealift logistics](#) planned by Admiral James Foggo presents a crucial test of our ability to rapidly move large amounts of materiel.

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### Navy Acquisition Chief at NDIA

In a wide-ranging talk Tuesday morning at the National Defense Industrial Association breakfast (NDIA) the Navy's top acquisition official James "Hondo" Geurts outlined his strategy and drive to use best practices to deliver for the warfighters. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition emphasized four Ds: decentralize, differentiate, digitize, develop the workforce. The SecNav's "secret weapon," Secretary Geurts said to build a more lethal force business practices are crucial to maximize resources. He has been pushing to decentralize procurement authority for category-

two programs to the Program Executive Officer (PEO) level, and stressing the difference between "an aircraft carrier and an algorithm." He pledged to work with industry suppliers and asked for their cooperation as well in building the Navy the nation needs, noting that \$700 billion from Congress for the Pentagon is enough to get the job done. To reduce costs Secretary Geurts has pushed for common instead of sequential parts buys across programs such as the Virginia and Columbia submarines, and block buys for the Virginia and Ford-class programs. To keep our intellectual property and information secure he underlined the importance of improving cyber security in the supply base, especially for sensitive but unclassified material. Secretary Geurts acknowledged that the ability to surge during an emergency is "not there right now" but committed to a "wartime mindset" to be ready.

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### **CBO Examines 355-Ship Strategy**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) this month released a study assessing the Navy's goal of reaching a 355-ship fleet with their current shipbuilding strategy. The study is not kind, [the Naval Institute reports](#). The CBO reiterates its previous assessment, often cited by the Navy League, that Congress would need to fund the shipbuilding account at an average \$26.7 Billion over the next 30 years. Including all costs associated with post delivery outfitting the CBO says the figure is more like \$28.9 billion per year.

With Service Life Extensions (SLEP) the fleet would reach 355-ships in 2034 but not with the right mix of ships, says the CBO. The heart of the problem is that average shipbuilding account funding historically is \$13.6 billion, far short of the Navy's own \$21 billion estimate.

**[Take Action and tell your Member of Congress to support a 355-ship Navy!](#)**

You can read the full report here:

<https://www.cbo.gov/system/files?file=2018-10/54564-FY19Shipbuilding.pdf>

**Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your councils, as well as friends and potential Navy League members!**



181021-N-VO150-0867 BOGEN, Norway (Oct. 21, 2018) A Sailor assigned to Naval Beach Group 2 directs the driver of a II Marine Expeditionary Force logistics vehicle system replacement across an Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) causeway ferry toward the beach as part of the Maritime Prepositioning Force offload during exercise Northern Screen in Bogen, Norway, Oct. 21, 2018. Northern Screen is a bilateral exercise involving the United States Marine Corps' Marine Rotational Force-Europe and the Norwegian military, and is taking place in the vicinity of Setermoen, Norway, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 7, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kenneth Gardner/Released)

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**Other stories of interest:**

## **Top Stories**

[Navy Proposal to Buy Two Carriers Draws Scrutiny from Pentagon - Bloomberg/Oct 19](#)

"We are conducting an evaluation to ensure we have the warfighting capabilities to compete and win," Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said in a statement to Bloomberg News. "Any decision will factor in strengthening the

industrial base and delivering best value for taxpayers."

[The military could see big changes if Democrats win control of Congress - Military Times/Oct 24](#)

If Republicans hold on to both chambers, much of the defense debate on Capitol Hill will remain unchanged from the past year: a push for bigger defense budgets, focus on modernization and readiness improvements, and status quo on oversight of a host of overseas military operations. But predicting exactly what a Democratic takeover of the House or the Senate would mean for defense priorities next year remains unclear.

[It's official: DoD told to take cut with FY20 budget - Defense News/Oct 26](#)

Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan told reporters at the Military Reporters & Editors Conference on Friday that Office of Management and Budget head Mick Mulvaney directly told him the Department of Defense must aim for the \$700 billion figure, first floated by President Donald Trump at a Cabinet meeting last week.

[\*\*Oppose a return of sequestration by telling Congress to repeal the Budget Control Act!\*\*](#)

[Department of Navy Releases New Business Operations Plan - USNI News/Oct 24](#)

The plan is not intended to be static, Modly said. Status reports are due every quarter, with updates to the plan expected in six months. A revamped version is due in about a year, around the start of Fiscal Year 2020.

[Coast Guard, Shipbuilder Assessing Hurricane Damage to Yard Building Offshore Patrol Cutter - USNI News/Oct 22](#)

On September 28, the Coast Guard awarded Eastern Shipbuilding a contract to build the future USCGC Argus (WMSM-915), the first offshore patrol cutter (OPC). The yard was also set to build a second OPC, the future USCGC Chase (WMSM-916). Eastern Shipbuilding's contract is for nine OPCs, with options for two additional cutters. Ultimately, the Coast Guard plans to buy 25 OPCs.

[Navy declares EMS a full-fledged warfighting domain - Defense Systems/Oct 23](#)

A new Navy policy recognizes the electromagnetic spectrum as a warfighting domain "on par with sea, land, air, space and cyber."

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## Seapower

[The US Navy will have to pony up and race the clock to avoid a sealift capacity collapse - Defense News/Oct 21](#)

OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN - The U.S. surge sealift fleet, the ships needed to help transport up to 90 percent of the Army's and Marine Corps' gear by sea if the U.S. had to fight a war against a great power, will be facing a full-blown modernization crisis by the end of the 2020s if the Navy can't arrest its decline, according to a Navy report sent to Congress earlier this year.

[\*\*Support a stronger Merchant Marine by taking action here!\*\*](#)

[Two U.S. Navy Warships Transit Taiwan Strait - USNI News/Oct 22](#)

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG-54) and Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG-54) passed through the roughly 110-mile-wide sea lane separating mainland China and the island of Taiwan with no incidents reported, according to Pentagon officials.

[John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group Quietly Leaves for Deployment, Homeport Change - USNI News/Oct 22](#)

The deployment of Stennis is the second major naval task group recently to deploy from the West Coast without any formal Navy acknowledgment. Earlier this year, the Essex Amphibious Ready Group deployed from Naval Station San Diego with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Group with about 5,000 sailors and Marines.

[USCG's Icebreakers Support National Security in the Arctic - Maritime Exec/Oct 22](#)

As one of only two icebreakers in U.S. service, the Healy is uniquely suited to support these types of scientific missions in the Arctic. The Healy, a 420-foot icebreaker homeported in Seattle, hosts a full suite of sensors and equipment specifically designed to gather scientific data. Operating from the ship-based Science Technical Support in the Arctic laboratory (STARC), ship personnel provide technical assistance to visiting science teams to collect and gather data such as water conductivity, temperature, depth and sea floor mapping. In 2017, STARC personnel were instrumental in using side-scan sonar to locate the sunken shipwreck of the 110-foot crab fishing boat Destination, which capsized and sank in the Bering Sea, claiming the lives of all six crewmen aboard.

[\*\*Tell Congress not to cut funding for the Polar Security Cutter this year!\*\*](#)

[GRAY ZONES IN A BLUE ARCTIC: GRAPPLING WITH CHINA'S GROWING INFLUENCE - War on the Rocks/Oct 24](#)

A few days ago, Ocean Network Canada confirmed that it had installed four underwater monitoring devices built by the Sanya Institute of Deep Sea Science and Engineering, a unit of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, less than 200 miles from Naval Base Kitsap in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as part of a grid of marine sensors stretching up to the Arctic. In September, Greenland's courting of Chinese investors and construction companies to help expand three airports prompted the Kingdom of Denmark and the United States to "strategically invest" in building infrastructure on the island. Also in September, China's icebreaker, the Xue Long (Snow Dragon), returned to Shanghai after its ninth research expedition to the Arctic, where it collected submarine typography.

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## **Surface and Submarine Warfare**

[Lockheed planning big shift away from LCS propulsion system for its future frigate offering - Defense News/Oct 22](#)

PARIS - Lockheed Martin is planning to shift from Littoral Combat Ship's water-jet propulsion to a propulsion system that the U.S. Navy is more familiar with for its future frigate offering, Lockheed's vice president for small combatants and ship systems told reporters at the 2018 Euronaval show.

[The US Navy's new ship-killer missile slated to make its fleet debut much sooner than expected - Defense News/Oct 24](#)

The service selected Kongsberg and Raytheon's Naval Strike Missile as its first new anti-ship missile in decades earlier this year for its littoral combat ship over-the-horizon missile, giving the LCS much-needed teeth as it operates inside Russian and Chinese anti-access envelopes. With the first major deployments of the ships in years planned for 2019, the surface Navy is in a full-court press to accelerate and integrate the new missile on the ship, months ahead of its original target date.

[Navy's New SSN\(X\) Attack Sub To Be Faster, More Lethal - And More Expensive - USNI News/Oct 19](#)

The Navy's next class fast attack submarine will be designed for a return to blue-water great power competition, where the ability to support forces ashore is less important than operating in the open ocean hunting rival submarines, according to

an analysis of the Navy's 30 Year shipbuilding plan conducted by Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

[To combat Russian subs, NATO allies are teaming up to develop unmanned systems at sea - Defense News/Oct 22](#)

During the July summit, the powers signed onto a plan to jointly pursue technologies aimed at mine and sub hunting, according to an October news release making the agreement public.

[Gerard Butler and director of 'Hunter Killer' visit Navy submarine base - Stars and Stripes/Oct 21](#)

GROTON, Conn. (Tribune News Service) - A packed audience of more than 1,300 sailors and their family members in the Dealey Center Theater at the Naval Submarine Base applauded and cheered as actor Gerard Butler and Donovan Marsh, the director of "Hunter Killer," walked onto the stage Saturday.

[Defense contractor will pay \\$3.5 million to settle allegations of substandard work on Navy warships - Navy Times/Oct 25](#)

Based in Ontario, Indal Technologies, Inc. produced the Recovery, Assist, Secure and Traverse, or RAST, system that has been attached to Arleigh Burke-class destroyers since the 1970s, according to an Oct. 15 settlement announcement by the U.S. Department of Justice.

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## **Aviation**

[U.S. Navy Commissions Dedicated UAS Test Squadron - AIN Online/Oct 22](#)

Known as Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (UX) 24, the new squadron continues the work of the UAS Test Directorate of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD). Heading the unit is Commander Matthew Densing, who was also the commanding officer of NAWCAD UASTD, and under whose leadership conducted more than 2,200 flying hours. Addressing the audience during UX-24's commissioning ceremony, he noted that, "This squadron centralizes the Navy's technical excellence in unmanned aviation. As the Navy continues to require the broad range of capability offered by UASs, UX-24 will always challenge the status quo."

[F-35B Finishes Initial Testing Aboard HMS Queen Elizabeth - Seapower/Oct 22](#)

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. - British sailors and members of the F-35 Integrated Test

Force (ITF) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River completed a successful opening phase Oct. 16 of the first-of-class flight trials being conducted aboard the U.K.'s new aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, near the U.S. eastern seaboard, the Program Executive Office-Joint Strike Fighter said in a release.

[Some F-35s grounded again for new round of inspections - Marine Times/Oct 25](#)

A spokesman for the F-35 JPO, who confirmed the issue exclusively to Defense News and Marine Corps Times, declined to detail exactly how many jets may possibly be grounded as a result of the inspections. However, one source close to the program said that only a couple dozen F-35Bs meet the criteria where an operational pause would be necessary.

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## Expeditionary Warfare

[Marines Furiously Cutting Programs As Tighter Budgets Loom - Breaking Defense/Oct 19](#)

The two-year budget boost negotiated by Congress will come to a crashing halt with the 2020 defense budget with sequestration budget caps returning, So, to modernize "we have to divest," Brig. Gen. James Acton, director of the Capabilities Development Directorate said.

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## Personnel

[Retired Navy commander gets 30 months prison for accepting 'Fat Leonard' bribes - San Diego UT/Oct 19](#)

On Friday, Amundson was sentenced to 30 months in prison. He joins the ranks of more than a dozen other Navy officials whose military service is now tarnished with felony records for getting cozy with Francis in what has become the worst corruption scandal to hit the Navy in decades.

[First female completes second phase of Marine Raider selection - Marine Times/Oct 22](#)

Last month, Sgt. Bailey Weis, an aviation maintenance controller, became the first female Marine to complete the second phase of Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command's Assessment and Selection course, Military.com reported.

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## Homeland

[Raye Montague, the Navy's 'Hidden Figure' Ship Designer, Dies at 83 - NY Times/Oct 18](#)

The girl who faced racism and sexism in the segregated South, where she rode in the back of the bus and was denied entry to a college engineering program because she was black, became an internationally registered professional engineer and shattered the glass ceiling at the Navy when she became the first female program manager of ships. She earned the civilian equivalent of the rank of captain.

[William Thompson, rear admiral who helped create Navy Memorial, dies at 96 - Stars and Stripes/Oct 22](#)

William Thompson, a Navy rear admiral who in retirement organized and led the campaign to create a Navy memorial and heritage center on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, died Oct. 15 at a hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 96.

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## Jones Act

[The Jones Act is a tremendous benefit to America - The Hill/Oct 22](#)

Virtually every argument against the Jones Act is falsely premised on the notion that it increases consumer prices and that it impeded emergency supplies from getting to Puerto Rico after last year's hurricanes. Some have even argued that Puerto Rico's decade long recession is the fault of the Jones Act - despite the fact that it was enacted almost 100 years ago. Simply stated, there is no factual evidence to support these claims.



181025-N-IG466-0832 NORWEGIAN SEA (Oct. 25, 2018) F/A-18E Super Hornets assigned to Carrier Air Wing CVW 1 prepare to launch from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in support of Trident Juncture 18. With more than 50,000 participants from 31 Ally and partner nations, Trident Juncture 18 is taking place in Norway and the surrounding areas of the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea, including Iceland and the airspace of Finland and Sweden. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Adelola Tinubu/Released)

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